

# SOUTHWEST REGION

The Southwest Region covers nine counties in the southwestern part of the state: Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren counties. Major state highways include I-69, I-94, I-196, US-12, US-31, and US-131.

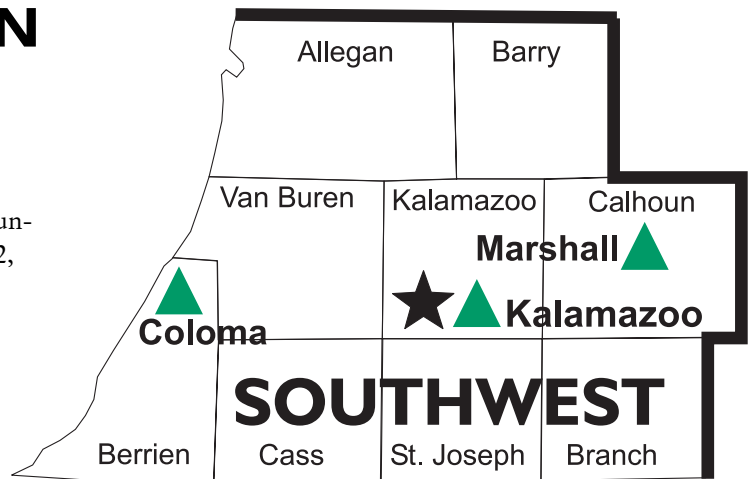
The Southwest Region is the state's fruit basket thanks to the moderating climate effect of Lake Michigan. The region is traversed by I-94, an important international trade corridor linking Port Huron and Detroit to Chicago and Toronto. This makes the Southwest Region an ideal location for many industries, particularly those supporting the automobile manufacturing industry. To bolster industries and commerce important to the region and the state, project selection emphasizes freeway improvements and modernization.

The Southwest Region also boasts a significant tourist trade. To welcome visitors to Michigan, MDOT's Southwest Region has improved most of its highway entrances into Michigan, with an additional entrance improvement scheduled for 2006. Travelers will especially appreciate the updated "Welcome to Michigan" signs, with their resplendent landscaping, featuring flowers and other plantings from Michigan nurseries. New welcome signs are now in place at I-94, I-69, and US-31 entering Michigan from Indiana.

## Past Accomplishments

The Southwest Region continues to edge closer to MDOT's statewide pavement and bridge condition goals. Achievements of the Southwest Region's 2001 program include:

- **Reconstruction of nine miles of I-69** from north of US-12 to Girard Road, including two bridges in Branch county. This project is part of the continuing effort to upgrade I-69 from the state line to Charlotte.
- **Rehabilitation of five miles of I-94** from west of 24<sup>th</sup> Street to west of 9<sup>th</sup> Street in Van Buren and Kalamazoo Counties.
- **Rehabilitation of nine miles of westbound I-94** from Miller Road to Michigan Avenue in Kalamazoo County.
- **Rehabilitation/reconstruction and widening of nearly two miles of I-94 BL** from I-94 to Maiden Lane, north of Stevensville in Berrien County.



- **Reconstruction of nearly one mile of M-43 (West Main Street)** from the west city limit to the Con-rail crossing in Kalamazoo.
- **Relocation of ramp at I-94/Sprinkle Road** from the westbound I-94 ramp to Sprinkle Road to a new alignment connecting to Cork Street in Kalamazoo. Turn lanes were added at the Cork Street/Sprinkle Road intersection.

These are but a few of the \$300 million in road and bridge funds used by the Southwest Region over the past three years. In 2001, 36 miles of road were improved under the "rehabilitate and reconstruct" program with another 145 miles improved under the Capital Preventive Maintenance (CPM) program, translating to 15 percent of all Southwest Region route miles receiving some type of rehabilitation or repair. Fourteen bridges were rehabilitated under the bridge program which represents 2.5 percent of the bridge system for the Southwest Region. In the previous two years, 108 miles of roadway were improved and 21 bridges upgraded.

Projects that were awarded in 2001 and will be completed in 2002 include:

- **Construction of freeway grade and bridges on four miles of US-31** from south of Naomi Road to Napier Road in Berrien County.
- **Rehabilitation/reconstruction of three miles of I-94 BL** from Territorial Road to Clark Street including construction of a new bridge over I-94 in Albion.
- **Reconstruction of two miles of M-63** between the St. Joseph River and Grand Avenue in the cities of St. Joseph and Benton Harbor. This project is a cooperative effort between Benton Harbor, St. Joseph, Cornerstone Alliance, the state, and local

developers to remove the M-63 bridge over the old Whirlpool plant and the Klock Road interchange, and replace with them with a smaller bridge and at-grade intersection. The project will provide economic development opportunities to both cities. The Klock Road interchange work is funded from the governor's *Build Michigan III* program.

All other Southwest Region projects scheduled for 2001 were completed.

## Five-Year Road & Bridge Program

The 2002-2006 program for road rehabilitation and reconstruction and capacity improvement work will upgrade more than 160 of the region's 1,225 miles, including one new passing relief lane. Twenty-three (4 percent) of the region's 586 bridges and culverts will be improved between 2002 and 2006. More than \$340 million (including \$200 million in capacity improvements) will be invested in the Southwest Region in the next five years on road, bridge and capacity improvement work. In addition, Capital Preventive Maintenance (CPM) projects, programmed annually, are planned for a significant number of pavements and bridges that do not yet require more extensive repairs. This treatment will improve the system condition and extend the system life.

## Corridor Improvement Strategies

The **US-131 BR/Industrial Corridor** in Kalamazoo received designated funds through TEA-21 legislation. The study is being conducted by the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study, Kalamazoo's metropolitan planning organization. (See more information under "Research".)

The Southwest Region continues to complete projects that were identified in a multiple year corridor improvement strategy for I-69 which will include pavement and bridge upgrades from the Indiana state line to the southern Eaton County line. Projects are scheduled in 2002, 2003, and 2004 to complete the corridor improvements.

## Capacity Improvements and New Roads

The capacity improvements projects listed below have phases under way or are scheduled to begin construction in the next five years. These projects address congestion and safety concerns resulting from economic development and population growth.

### **US-31, existing US-31 to Napier Road in Berrien County.**

The construction of the new US-31 freeway from existing US-31 in Berrien Springs to Napier Road is under way. The grade and bridge portion of the segment from existing US-31 to River Road is now complete and currently grade and bridge work is being done between River and Napier Roads. Construction of this portion will continue through 2002. The paving of the surface for the entire 9.6 mile length of the project will take place in 2002 and 2003. It is anticipated that this portion of the freeway will be open to traffic in 2003.

### **US-31, Napier Road to I-94/I-196 in Berrien County.**

Environmental clearance activities for US-31 north of Napier Road are under way which, when constructed, will complete the US-31 freeway relocation in Berrien County. Engineering alignments are being evaluated for cost savings and the avoidance of sensitive environmental areas. Design and right-of-way activities for the new freeway will begin in 2003, with construction of US-31 expected to begin in 2005. Design of associated work on I-94 will begin in 2002 with construction in 2003. Funding for this project has been included in the governor's *Build Michigan III* program.

**I-94 Business Loop Relocation in Battle Creek.** In 2002, MDOT and the city of Battle Creek will be reviewing the current project needs between I-194 and James Street to develop and assess alternatives to provide greater roadway efficiency for the area. Construction of a selected alternative could begin in 2003.

## Research

**US-131, state line to north of Three Rivers in St Joseph County.** An early preliminary engineering (EPE) study to determine the location and type of facility for this portion of US-131 in St Joseph County is under way. The study area encompasses approximately 16 miles of US-131 from the Indiana state line to north of Three Rivers at the township line between Park and Lockport townships. Funding beyond the EPE Study, subject to the study results, has been committed for design and right-of-way acquisition of a new alignment bypassing Constantine. Preliminary engineering for a bypass of Constantine is tentatively scheduled to begin 2003 and 2004, with right-of-way acquisition in 2004 through 2006.

**US-131 Railroad Grade Separation.** Environmental clearance activities to determine the feasibility of relocating and grade separating the CN Railroad tracks in Schoolcraft are on hold pending the outcome of the US-131 corridor study in southern St. Joseph County.

**I-94, west of 12<sup>th</sup> Street to Sprinkle Road in Portage and Kalamazoo.** Environmental clearance and design activities are under way for this portion of I-94. MDOT is developing an environmental assessment for the project, which will be completed in 2002. Design work should be completed by early 2004, which could allow initial construction to begin in 2004 should funds become available. The governor's *Build Michigan III* program has provided funding through the design phase.

**US-131BR/Industrial Corridor in Kalamazoo.** MDOT and the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) are working with local businesses and government leaders to evaluate alternatives to improve access to Kalamazoo's north side. Completion of a partial interchange at US-131 and US-131BR, as well as several other alternatives, are being studied. The first phase of the study, a Benefit/Cost Analysis was completed in 2001. An Economic Impact Study is under way by KATS and will be completed in 2002.

# 2002-2006 FIVE YEAR PLAN

## Southwest Region

## Repair and Rebuild Roads

COUNTY	ROUTE (NAME)	BM III	LOCATION	TYPE OF WORK	LENGTH	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
ALLEGAN	M-40		NORTH OF HAMILTON TO I-196	ROAD - RESURFACE AND SHOULDERS	4.510				CON	
ALLEGAN	US-131		WAYLAND TO KENT COUNTY LINE	ROAD - RESURFACE AND SHOULDERS	7.650		CON			
BARRY	M-66		ASSYRIA ROAD TO FRANCES STREET	ROAD - RESURFACE AND MINOR WIDENING	4.590					CON
BERRIEN	I-196		OVER I-94, FOUR MILES NORTHEAST OF BENTON HARBOR	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK						CON
BERRIEN	I-196		I-196 NORTHBOUND OVER I-94	BRIDGE - DECK REPLACEMENT	0.000					CON
BERRIEN	I-196		I-196 SOUTHBOUND OVER I-94	BRIDGE - DECK REPLACEMENT	0.000					CON
BERRIEN	I-94		ST JOSEPH RIVER EAST TO EAST OF I-196	ROAD - RESURFACE, MILL AND PULVERIZE	6.730	CON				
BERRIEN	I-94		OVER OLD US-12	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK				CON		
BERRIEN	I-94		I-94 EASTBOUND OVER OLD US-12	BRIDGE - BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	0.000			CON		
BERRIEN	I-94		I-94 WESTBOUND OVER OLD US-12	BRIDGE - BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	0.000			CON		
BERRIEN	I-94		EASTBOUND AND WESTBOUND OVER M-139	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK		CON				
BERRIEN	I-94		I-94 EASTBOUND OVER US-31 AND M-139	BRIDGE - BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	0.000	CON				
BERRIEN	I-94		I-94 WESTBOUND OVER US-31 AND M-139	BRIDGE - BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	0.000	CON				
BERRIEN	I-94		EASTBOUND AND WESTBOUND OVER CSX RAILROAD	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK			CON			
BERRIEN	I-94		I-94 EASTBOUND OVER CSX RAILROAD	BRIDGE - BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	0.000		CON			
BERRIEN	I-94		I-94 WESTBOUND OVER CSX RAILROAD	BRIDGE - BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	0.000		CON			
BERRIEN	I-94		I-94 EASTBOUND OVER GALIEN RIVER	BRIDGE - SUPERSTRUCTURE REPLACE	0.000				CON	
BERRIEN	I-94		I-94 WESTBOUND OVER GALIEN RIVER	BRIDGE - SUPERSTRUCTURE REPLACE	0.000				CON	
BERRIEN	I-94		OVER SAWYER ROAD	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK					CON	
BERRIEN	I-94		I-94 EASTBOUND OVER SAWYER ROAD	BRIDGE - DECK REPLACEMENT	0.000				CON	
BERRIEN	I-94		I-94 WESTBOUND OVER SAWYER ROAD	BRIDGE - DECK REPLACEMENT	0.000				CON	
BERRIEN	I-94 BL		I-94 BUSINESS LOOP OVER ST. JOSEPH RIVER	BRIDGE - MISCELLANEOUS REHABILITATION	0.000	CON				
BERRIEN	M-51		US-12BR TO PUCKER ROAD	ROAD - RESURFACE AND MINOR WIDENING	3.090				CON	
BERRIEN	M-50BR		THIRTEENTH STREET EAST TO BAILEY AVENUE	ROAD - RESURFACE AND CURB AND GUTTER	2.415	CON				
BERRIEN	M-63		DOZER/ROGER AVENUE TO LYDIA AVENUE	ROAD - RECONSTRUCT, MINOR WIDENING	1.811		CON			
BERRIEN	M-63		OVER HICKORY CREEK	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK			CON			
BERRIEN	M-63		M-63 OVER HICKORY CREEK	BRIDGE - SUPERSTRUCTURE REPLACE	0.000		CON			
BERRIEN	US-12		WEST VILLAGE LIMITS OF THREE OAKS TO TULIP STREET	ROAD - RESURFACE, MILL AND PULVERIZE	1.153		CON			
BERRIEN	US-31		STATELINE TO US-12	ROAD - MAJOR REHABILITATION	3.305					CON
BRANCH	I-69		SOUTH OF US-12 TO STATE ROAD	ROAD - RECONSTRUCT EXISTING, NO WIDEN	3.096	CON				
BRANCH	I-69		I-69 NORTHBOUND OVER US-12	BRIDGE - BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	0.000	CON				
BRANCH	I-69		OVER SOUTH BRANCH OF COLDWATER RIVER	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK		CON				
BRANCH	I-69		I-69 SOUTHBOUND OVER SOUTH BRANCH OF COLDWATER RIVER	BRIDGE - OVERLAY - SHALLOW	0.000	CON				
BRANCH	I-69		I-69 SOUTHBOUND OVER US-12	BRIDGE - OVERLAY - SHALLOW	0.000	CON				
BRANCH	I-69		SOUTHBOUND OVER HILLSDALE COUNTY RAILROAD	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK		CON				
BRANCH	I-69		I-69 SOUTHBOUND OVER HILLSDALE COUNTY RAILROAD	BRIDGE - OVERLAY - SHALLOW	0.000	CON				
BRANCH	I-69		I-69 NORTHBOUND OVER HILLSDALE COUNTY RAILROAD	BRIDGE - OVERLAY - SHALLOW	0.000	CON				

# 2002-2006 FIVE YEAR PLAN

## Repair and Rebuild Roads continued

## Southwest Region

COUNTY	ROUTE (NAME)	BM III	LOCATION	TYPE OF WORK	LENGTH	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
BRANCH	I-69BL		OVER SAUK RIVER	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK		CON				
BRANCH	I-69BL		I-69 BUSINESS LOOP OVER SAUK RIVER	BRIDGE - SUPERSTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT	0.000	CON				
CALHOUN	I-194		OVER I-94 BUSINESS LOOP AND CONRAIL (ABANDONED)	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK		CON				
CALHOUN	I-194		I-194 OVER CONRAIL (ABANDONED)	BRIDGE - OVERLAY - SHALLOW	0.000	CON				
CALHOUN	I-194		I-194 OVER I-94 BUSINESS LOOP (DICKMAN ROAD)	BRIDGE - OVERLAY - SHALLOW	0.000	CON				
CALHOUN	I-69		OVER CONRAIL (ABANDONED)	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK			CON			
CALHOUN	I-69		I-69 SOUTHBOUND OVER CONRAIL	BRIDGE - DECK REPLACEMENT	0.000		CON			
CALHOUN	I-69		NORTH OF GIRARD ROAD TO "J" DRIVE	ROAD - REONSTRUCT, NO WIDENING	9.098		CON			
CALHOUN	I-69		"J" DRIVE NORTH TO NORTH OF I-94	ROAD - PAVEMENT REPAIR AND DIAMOND GRINDING	9.657			CON		
CALHOUN	I-69		SOUTHBOUND OVER M-60	BRIDGE - OVERLAY - DEEP	0.000		CON			
CALHOUN	I-69		NORTH OF GIRARD TO J DRIVE	ROAD - RESURFACE AND SHOULDERS		CON				
CALHOUN	I-69		NORTHBOUND OVER M-60	BRIDGE - OVERLAY - DEEP			CON			
CALHOUN	I-69		I-69 NORTHBOUND OVER CONRAIL	BRIDGE - DECK REPLACEMENT	0.000		CON			
CALHOUN	I-94EB		171/2 MILE ROAD EAST TO COUNTY LINE	ROAD - MAJOR REHABILITATION	11.650				CON	
CALHOUN	M60		EAST OF WEST COUNTY LINE EASTERLY TO OLD US-27	ROAD - RESURFACE, MILL AND PULVERIZE	8.397	CON				
CALHOUN	M-66		FREY DRIVE TO M-78	ROAD - RESURFACE AND MINOR WIDENING	4.310			CON		
CASS	M-60		EAST VILLAGE LIMITS OF VANDALIA TO COUNTY LINE	ROAD - RESURFACE AND SHOULDERS	7.514					CON
CASS	US-12		FIVE POINTS ROAD TO UNION ROAD	ROAD - RESURFACE AND SHOULDERS	4.890	CON				
KALAMAZOO	M-89		WEST VILLAGE LIMITS OF RICHLAND EAST TO 42ND AVENUE	ROAD - RESURFACE AND MINOR WIDENING	5.300		CON			
KALAMAZOO	M-96		SPRINKLE ROAD OVER M-96, KALAMAZOO	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK			CON			
KALAMAZOO	M-96		SPRINKLE ROAD OVER M-96	BRIDGE - SUPERSTRUCTURE REPLACE	0.000		CON			
KALAMAZOO	US-131		NORTH OF M-43 TO NORTH OF M-89	ROAD - MAJOR REHABILITATION	10.210			CON		
KALAMAZOO	US-131		UNDER M AVENUE (PARKVIEW)	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK				CON		
KALAMAZOO	US-131		M AVENUE OVER US-131	BRIDGE - OVERLAY	0.000			CON		
ST. JOSEPH	M-216		MARCELLUS TO US-131	ROAD - RESURFACE	8.772					CON
ST. JOSEPH	M-60		EAST VILLAGE LIMITS OF MENDON TO WEST VILLAGE LIMITS	ROAD - REONSTRUCT, NO WIDENING	1.090			CON		
ST. JOSEPH	M-60/M-66 (HOFFMAN STREET)		WEST BRANCH TO EAST VILLAGE LIMITS OF LEONIDAS	ROAD - RESURFACE AND SHOULDERS	3.390	CON				
ST. JOSEPH	US-12		CENTERVILLE ROAD TO EAST CITY LIMITS OF STURGIS	ROAD - REONSTRUCT, NO WIDENING	1.640					CON
ST. JOSEPH	US12 (CHICAGO ROAD)		WEST OF ELAINE STREET EAST TO SURPRISE	ROAD - RESURFACE AND MINOR WIDENING	0.620	CON				
VAN BUREN	I-94 EB		LAWRENCE REST AREA	REST AREA - NEW BUILDING			CON			
VAN BUREN	I-94WB		WB I-94, M-51 TO EAST VILLAGE LIMITS OF MATTAWAN	ROAD - MAJOR REHABILITATION	9.407					CON
VAN BUREN	M-40		SOUTH OF LAGRAVE STREET TO NORTH STREET, PAW PAW	ROAD - REONSTRUCT, NO WIDENING	3.185					CON
VAN BUREN	M40		VANBUREN STREET NORTH TO MILL LAKE ROAD	ROAD - RESURFACE	0.497					CON
VAN BUREN	M-43	BM III	M-40 INTERSECTION	PASSING RELIEF LANE	2.200	CON				
VAN BUREN	M-51		MILLS TO EVERGREEN AVENUE, DECATUR	ROAD - REONSTRUCT, NO WIDENING	1.150		CON			

150.425

# 2002-2006 FIVE YEAR PLAN

## Southwest Region

COUNTY	ROUTE (NAME)	BM III	LOCATION	TYPE OF WORK	LENGTH	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
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## Committed New Roads

BERRIEN	US-31									
BERRIEN	US-31 REL	BM III	NORTH OF NAPIER ROAD TO I-94 INTERCHANGE	NEW ROUTES	0.000	EPE, PE	PE, ROW, CON	PE, ROW, CON	CON	CON
BERRIEN	US-31 REL		NORTH OF EXISTING US-31 TO NORTH OF NAPIER AVENUE	RELOCATION OF EXISTING ROUTE	9.564	PE, CON	CON			
BERRIEN	US-31 REL		NAOMI ROAD TO SNYDER ROAD	NEW FREEWAY	1.700	CON				
BERRIEN	US-31 REL		NORTH OF SNYDER TO NORTH OF NAPIER	RELOCATION OF EXISTING ROUTE	1.700	CON				
BERRIEN	US-31 REL		NAOMI ROAD TO SNYDER ROAD	LANDSCAPING	0.000	CON				
					12.964					

## Committed Capacity Improvement

CALHOUN	I-94 BL									
KALAMAZOO	US-131		I-94BL TO EAST OF JAMES AND SOUTH TO JAMES BETWEEN SCHOOLCRAFT AND THREE RIVERS	RECONSTRUCT AND ADD LANE(S) PURCHASE ACCESS RIGHTS	1.341 5.041	PE, ROW ROW	CON CON	CON		
					6.382					

## New Roads Research

ST JOSEPH	US-131									
					STATE LINE TO NORTH TOWNSHIP LINE LOCKPORT TOWNSHIP	STUDY	EPE	EPE, PE	PE, ROW	PE, ROW
							12.000			
							12.000			

## Capacity Improvement Research

KALAMAZOO	I-94	BM III								
					WEST OF 12TH EAST TO SPRINKLE ROAD, KALAMAZOO	RECONSTRUCT AND ADD LANE(S)	EPE, PE	PE	PE	
							6.714			
							6.714			